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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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LADAS & PARRY 26 WEST 61ST STREET NEW YORK, NY 10023			SMITHERS, MATTHEW	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2137	

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PRG

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/432,668

Applicant(s)

SILVER, YONATAN

Examiner

Matthew B Smithers

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-15, 17-27 and 29-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-15, 17-27 and 29-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 5,6,8,10,19 and 28-30 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to the step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period in response to disabling data resident in a removable security element which is operatively associated with said subscriber unit wherein said disabling data resident in the removable security element is stored in the removable security element before the removable security element is provided to the user for use thereby; wherein said disabling code is associated with a payment code determining a payment rate and wherein said disabling code is comprised in one of the following: an Entitlement Control Message (ECM); and an Entitlement Management Message (EMM). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-19, 21-27, 29-48, 50 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,020,882 granted to Kinghorn et al and further in view of U.S. patent 5,936,660 granted to Gurantz.

Regarding claim 1, Kinghorn teaches an access control method for receiving an encoded program at a subscriber unit via the broadcast communication network and preventing decoding of the encoded program at the subscriber unit for at least one preselected time period, preselected in accordance with a preference of a user of the subscriber unit, wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period (see abstract; column 6, lines 1-20; column 8, line 63 to column 9, line 23 and column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12). Kinghorn fails to specifically teach using a removable security element (smartcard) to disable the data. Gurantz teaches a conditional access unit (subscriber unit) that uses a smartcard to authorize decryption (decoding) of video signals downloaded from the broadcaster. The smartcard has authorization data stored in it and uses the authorization information to determine if the programming material is to be displayed (see column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system with Gurantz's video conversion system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations through the use of an easily replaceable security element that can be reprogrammed by the broadcaster in response to requested changes by the subscriber [see Gurantz; column 2, lines 4-19].

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Regarding claim 2, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period in response to a selection inputted by the user (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 37-40; column 7, lines 29-40 and column 8, lines 63-64).

Regarding claim 3, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period in response to disabling data inputted at a headend of the broadcast communication network (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 3-9; column 6, lines 21-35; and column 6, lines 61-64).

Regarding claim 4, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said disabling data comprises addressed restriction information which is individually addressed to the subscriber unit (see Kinghorn; column 9, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 6, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein the disabling data (authorization data) is stored in the smart card before the smart card is provided to the user (see Gurantz; column 2, lines 13-19 and column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18).

Regarding claim 7, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said disabling data comprises at least a portion of characteristics of the at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 8, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said disabling data comprises characteristics of the at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 63-67).

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Regarding claim 9, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said characteristics of the at least one preselected time period comprise at least one of the following: a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and an ending time of the at least one preselected time period; and a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and a length of the at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12 and Figure 7).

Regarding claim 10, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said characteristics of the at least one preselected time period comprise at least one of the following: a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and an ending time of the at least one preselected time period; a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and a length of the at least one preselected time period; and a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period after the removable security element is inserted in a removable security element receptacle in said subscriber unit for a specified time period, and a time remaining to an end of a current day (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12 and Figure 7).

Regarding claim 11, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of a program in a clear form at a channel to which the subscriber unit is tuned during said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 7-36 and column 9, lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 12, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of a pay program in a clear

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form at a channel to which the subscriber unit is tuned during said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 7-36 and column 9, lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 13, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said program comprises at least one of the following: a television program; a pay television program; a commercial; a video clip; a program guide; an electronic program guide (EPG); data; multimedia information; a hypermedia link; a computer program; computer data; an application which may be downloaded; a program applet; teletext information; an audio program; a textual information program; an image generating program; electronic-mail; and voice mail (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 1-20; column 8, lines 7-36 and column 9, lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 14, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said at least one preselected time period comprises at least one of the following: a periodic time period; and a specific time period (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12 and Figure 7).

Regarding claim 15, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the steps of: generating a disabling code in response to said selection inputted by the user; and employing said disabling code to prevent decoding of said program for said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 37-40; column 6, lines 49-52; column 7, lines 29-40 and column 8, lines 63-64).

Regarding claim 17, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the steps of: transmitting the program associated with

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an individually addressed disabling code from the headend; receiving the program with the associated individually addressed disabling code at the subscriber unit; separating the individually addressed disabling code from the program to produce a separated individually addressed disabling code; processing the separated individually addressed disabling code to determine whether the individually addressed disabling code is addressed to the subscriber unit; and preventing decoding of said program for said at least one preselected time period if said individually addressed disabling code is addressed to the subscriber unit (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 3-9; column 6, lines 21-35; column 6, lines 61-64 and column 9, lines 21-40).

Regarding claim 18, Kinghorn as modified teaches a smartcard is used on a pre-pay basis (payment associated with the authorization (disabling/enabling))(see Gurantz; column 2, lines 15-19).

Regarding claim 19, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the steps of: employing disabling code (authorization data) resident in the removable security element (see Gurantz; column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 19).

Regarding claim 21, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said at least one preselected time period is selected to immediately follow an additional time period during which programs broadcast via the broadcast communication network are displayed in a clear form (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12).

Regarding claim 22, Kinghorn teaches an access control method for receiving an encoded program at a subscriber unit via the broadcast communication network; and

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enabling decoding of the encoded program at the subscriber unit for at least one preselected time period, preselected in accordance with a preference of a user of the subscriber unit, wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period (see abstract; column 6, lines 1-20; column 8, line 63 to column 9, line 23 and column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12). Kinghorn fails to specifically teach using a removable security element (smartcard) to disable the data. Gurantz teaches a conditional access unit (subscriber unit) that uses a smartcard to authorize decryption (decoding) of video signals downloaded from the broadcaster. The smartcard has authorization data stored in it and uses the authorization information to determine if the programming material is to be displayed (see column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system with Gurantz's video conversion system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations through the use of an easily replaceable security element that can be reprogrammed by the broadcaster in response to requested changes by the subscriber [see Gurantz; column 2, lines 4-19].

Regarding claim 23, Kinghorn teaches an apparatus at a subscriber unit for providing access control to broadcast transmissions, the apparatus comprising: a receiver and decoder unit operative to receive and decode a program broadcast via a broadcast communication network in an encoded form; and a processor operatively associated with the receiver and decoder unit and operative to disable decoding of the

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program at the receiver and decoder unit for at least one preselected time period, preselected in accordance with a preference of a user of the subscriber unit, wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period (see column 6, lines 33-40 and column 8, lines 7-36). Kinghorn fails to specifically teach using a removable security element (smartcard) to disable the data. Gurantz teaches a conditional access unit (subscriber unit) that uses a smartcard to authorize decryption (decoding) of video signals downloaded from the broadcaster. The smartcard has authorization data stored in it and uses the authorization information to determine if the programming material is to be displayed (see column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system with Gurantz's video conversion system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations through the use of an easily replaceable security element that can be reprogrammed by the broadcaster in response to requested changes by the subscriber [see Gurantz; column 2, lines 4-19].

Regarding claim 24, Kinghorn as modified teaches a user input device operatively associated with said processor and operative to enable input of data determining said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 49-51).

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Regarding claim 25, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said user input device comprises at least one of the following: a keypad; a remote control unit; and a mouse pointer (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 49-51).

Regarding claim 26, Kinghorn as modified teaches a memory for storing data determining said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 61-67).

Regarding claim 27, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said receiver and decoder unit is also operative to receive the program with a disabling code associated therewith, to separate the disabling code from the program, and to provide the disabling code to the processor, and said processor is also operative to determine whether the disabling code is addressed to the subscriber unit, and to prevent decoding of the program for said at least one preselected time period if the disabling code is addressed to the subscriber unit (see Kinghorn; column 9, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 29, Kinghorn as modified teaches a removable security element (see Gurantz; column 3, lines 60-63).

Regarding claim 30, Kinghorn as modified teaches a smart card (see Gurantz; column 3, lines 60-63).

Claim 31 is an apparatus claim that is substantially equivalent to method claim 1.

Therefore claim 31 is rejected by a similar rationale.

Claim 32 is an apparatus claim that is substantially equivalent to method claim 22.

Therefore claim 32 is rejected by a similar rationale.

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Regarding claims 33, and 36, Kinghorn teaches an access control method for receiving an encoded program at a subscriber unit via the broadcast communication network and preventing decoding of the encoded program at the subscriber unit for at least one preselected time period, preselected in accordance with a preference of a user of the subscriber unit, wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period (see abstract; column 6, lines 1-20; column 8, line 63 to column 9, line 23 and column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12). Kinghorn fails to specifically teach using a removable security element (smartcard) to disable the data. Gurantz teaches a conditional access unit (subscriber unit) that uses a smartcard to authorize decryption (decoding) of video signals downloaded from the broadcaster. The smartcard has authorization data stored in it and uses the authorization information to determine if the programming material is to be displayed (see column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18). Further, Gurantz teaches a smartcard is used on a pre-pay basis (payment associated with the authorization (disabling/enabling))(see Gurantz; column 2, lines 15-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system with Gurantz's video conversion system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations through the use of an easily replaceable security element that can be reprogrammed by the broadcaster in response to requested changes by the subscriber [see Gurantz; column 2, lines 4-19].

Regarding claim 34, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period in response to disabling data inputted at a headend of the broadcast communication network (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 3-9; column 6, lines 21-35; and column 6, lines 61-64).

Regarding claim 35, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said disabling data comprises addressed restriction information which is individually addressed to the subscriber unit (see Kinghorn; column 9, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 37, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein the disabling data (authorization data) is stored in the smart card before the smart card is provided to the user (see Gurantz; column 2, lines 13-19 and column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18).

Regarding claim 38, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said disabling data comprises at least a portion of characteristics of the at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 39, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said disabling data comprises characteristics of the at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 40, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said characteristics of the at least one preselected time period comprise at least one of the following: a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and an ending time of the at least one preselected time period; and a beginning time of the at least one preselected

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time period and a length of the at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12 and Figure 7).

Regarding claim 41, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said characteristics of the at least one preselected time period comprise at least one of the following: a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and an ending time of the at least one preselected time period; a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period and a length of the at least one preselected time period; and a beginning time of the at least one preselected time period after the removable security element is inserted in a removable security element receptacle in said subscriber unit for a specified time period, and a time remaining to an end of a current day (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12 and Figure 7).

Regarding claim 42, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of a program in a clear form at a channel to which the subscriber unit is tuned during said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 7-36 and column 9, lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 43, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of a pay program in a clear form at a channel to which the subscriber unit is tuned during said at least one preselected time period (see Kinghorn; column 8, lines 7-36 and column 9, lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 44, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said program comprises at least one of the following: a television program; a pay television program; a commercial; a video clip; a program guide; an electronic program guide (EPG); data;

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multimedia information; a hypermedia link; a computer program; computer data; an application which may be downloaded; a program applet; teletext information; an audio program; a textual information program; an image generating program; electronic-mail; and voice mail (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 1-20; column 8, lines 7-36 and column 9, lines 9-14).

Regarding claim 45, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said at least one preselected time period comprises at least one of the following: a periodic time period; and a specific time period (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12 and Figure 7).

Regarding claim 46, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the steps of: transmitting the program associated with an individually addressed disabling code from the headend; receiving the program with the associated individually addressed disabling code at the subscriber unit; separating the individually addressed disabling code from the program to produce a separated individually addressed disabling code; processing the separated individually addressed disabling code to determine whether the individually addressed disabling code is addressed to the subscriber unit; and preventing decoding of said program for said at least one preselected time period if said individually addressed disabling code is addressed to the subscriber unit (see Kinghorn; column 6, lines 3-9; column 6, lines 21-35; column 6, lines 61-64 and column 9, lines 21-40).

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Regarding claim 47, Kinghorn as modified teaches a smartcard is used on a pre-pay basis (payment associated with the authorization (disabling/enabling))(see Gurantz; column 2, lines 15-19).

Regarding claim 48, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the steps of: employing disabling code (authorization data) resident in the removable security element (see Gurantz; column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 19).

Regarding claim 50, Kinghorn as modified teaches wherein said at least one preselected time period is selected to immediately follow an additional time period during which programs broadcast via the broadcast communication network are displayed in a clear form (see Kinghorn; column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 12).

Regarding claim 51, Kinghorn teaches an apparatus at a subscriber unit for providing access control to broadcast transmissions, the apparatus comprising: a receiver and decoder unit operative to receive and decode a program broadcast via a broadcast communication network in an encoded form; and a processor operatively associated with the receiver and decoder unit and operative to disable decoding of the program at the receiver and decoder unit for at least one preselected time period, preselected in accordance with a preference of a user of the subscriber unit, wherein said step of preventing decoding comprises the step of disabling display of the program in a clear form at the subscriber unit for said at least one preselected time period (see column 6, lines 33-40 and column 8, lines 7-36). Kinghorn fails to specifically teach using a removable security element (smartcard) to disable the data. Gurantz teaches a

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conditional access unit (subscriber unit) that uses a smartcard to authorize decryption (decoding) of video signals downloaded from the broadcaster. The smartcard has authorization data stored in it and uses the authorization information to determine if the programming material is to be displayed (see column 3, line 50 to column 4, line 18). Further, Gurantz teaches a smartcard is used on a pre-pay basis (payment associated with the authorization (disabling/enabling))(see Gurantz; column 2, lines 15-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system with Gurantz's video conversion system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations through the use of an easily replaceable security element that can be reprogrammed by the broadcaster in response to requested changes by the subscriber [see Gurantz; column 2, lines 4-19].

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,020,882 granted to Kinghorn et al and U.S. patent 5,936,660 granted to Gurantz as applied to claims 17 and 46 above, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,461,675 granted to Diehl et al.

Regarding claim 20, Kinghorn as modified discloses everything claimed as applied to claim 17 above, however Kinghorn as modified does not teach an Entitlement

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Control Message (ECM) or Entitlement Management Message (EMM) with the disabling code inside. Diehl teaches a method and apparatus for access control in a pay-per-view system where the authorization data is transmitted through an entitlement message (see column 2, line 47 to column 3, line 14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system and Gurantz's video conversion system with Diehl's control access system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations by modifying or updating the entitlement periods during which the user is authorized access by the broadcaster [see Diehl; column 1, lines 23-29].

Regarding claim 49, Kinghorn as modified discloses everything claimed as applied to claim 46 above, however Kinghorn as modified does not teach an Entitlement Control Message (ECM) or Entitlement Management Message (EMM) with the disabling code inside. Diehl teaches a method and apparatus for access control in a pay-per-view system where the authorization data is transmitted through an entitlement message (see column 2, line 47 to column 3, line 14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kinghorn's Television access control system and Gurantz's video conversion system with Diehl's control access system to gain the advantage of controlling a subscriber's authorizations by modifying or updating the entitlement periods during which the user is authorized access by the broadcaster [see Diehl; column 1, lines 23-29].

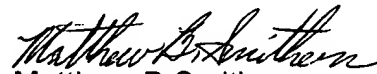
Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew B Smithers whose telephone number is (703) 308-9293. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00-5:30) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory A Morse can be reached on (703) 308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Matthew B Smithers
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2137